

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 09993 01 OF 02 302212Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05

TRSE-00 /091 W

-----044479 302236Z /62

P R 302005Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3963

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 9993

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAG: ELAB, SHUM, AR, PA

SUBJECT: ARREST OF CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS IN PARAGUAY

1. A DELEGATION FROM THE BUENOS AIRES-BASED REGIONAL INSTITUTE (INCASUR) OF THE CHRISTIAN-ORIENTED LATIN AMERICAN WORKERS CENTRAL (CLAT) VISITED EMBASSY DECEMBER 29 TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE OF USG IN OBTAINING RELEASE OF CLAT ACTIVISTS RECENTLY ARRESTED IN PARAGUAY.

2. THE DELEGATION PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: DURING COURSE OF CLAT-ORGANIZED URBAN WORKER COMPESINO MEETING IN THE TOWN OF YPACARAI DECEMBER 17, PARAGUAYAN POLICE ARRESTED MEETING ORGANIZERS, SOME OF WHOM WERE BEATEN UP IN THE PROCESS. OTHER ARRESTS TOOK PLACE THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE MEETING REPORTEDLY WAS ORGANIZED BY THE CNTU (NATIONAL CENTRAL OF URBAN WORKERS) AND THE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 09993 01 OF 02 302212Z

CEPES (PARAGUAYAN CENTER FOR SOCIAL STUDIES) WHICH ARE AFFILIATED TO THE CLAT AND THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL).

THE PERSONS ARRESTED REPORTEDLY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. FULGENCIO BAREIRO RODAS, DIRECTOR OF THE PARAGUAYAN CENTER FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (CEPES), EX-NATIONAL

PRESIDENT OF THE JOC (CHRISTIAN YOUTH WORKERS) AND FOR SEVEN YEARS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CONFEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS (CLASC), PRESENTLY CLAT.

B. EMIGDIO COLMAN NUNEZ, GENERAL COORDINATOR OF CNTU, EX-NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF JOC.

C. FLORENCIO RIVEROS VASQUEZ, MEMBER OF THE COORDINATION TEAM OF CNTU, EX-NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF JOC.

D. RODOLFO ROMERO GARCETE, A PARAGUAYAN NATIONAL WHO IS A DIRECTOR OF INCASUR IN BUENOS AIRES AND ALSO EX-NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF JOC (PRESUMABLY IN PARAGUAY). HE WAS IN PARAGUAY AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST "WITH HIS FAMILY TO VISIT HIS SICK MOTHER."

E. EMILIO VALENTI, ARGENTINE, RESIDENT OF ROSARIO. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE LATIN AMERICAN RURAL FEDERATION, AFFILIATED TO CLAT. VALENTI WAS INVITED BY CEPES TO GIVE A LECTURE ON HIS EXPERIENCES IN THE FIELD OF RURAL COOPERATIVISM.

F. FULGENCIO GUSTAVO BAREIRO ESPINOLA, 14 YEARS OLD, SON OF FULGENCIO BAREIRO RODAS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 09993 01 OF 02 302212Z

G. VICTORIANO CENTURION, WELL-KNOWN LEADER OF THE CHRISTIAN RURAL MOVEMENT OF PARAGUAY. CENTURION HAD JUST RETURNED TO PARAGUAY AFTER ATTENDING A THREE-MONTH COURSE GIVEN BY CLAT IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA, WHICH DEALT WITH THE RURAL COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. FROM CARACAS CENTURION TRAVELLED TO COSTA RICA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 7TH CLAT CONVENTION, WHICH TOOK PLACE NOVEMBER 26/29, 1977.

H. ANDRES CENTURION, 17 YEARS OLD, SON OF VICTORIANO CENTURION.

I. LUIS FERREIRA, CHRISTIAN RURAL LEADER. RESIDES AT PIRIBEBUY.

J. MARCIAL BRITOS, CHRISTIAN RURAL LEADER. RESIDES AT PIRIBEBUY.

K. TEODORO LOPEZ, WHO CAME TOGETHER WITH FERREIRA AND BRITOS AND DECIDED TO STAY ON FOR THE MEETING. PROFESSOR. RESIDES AT PIRIBEBUY.

L. VALENTIN ALMADA, CHRISTIAN RURAL ACTIVIST FROM SANTA MARIA (MISIONES, ARGENTINA)

M. ZACARIAS ESCOBAR, CHRISTIAN RURAL ACTIVIST FROM CHEIRO CUE, COLONIA J.E. O'LEARY, CAASUAZU.

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 09993 02 OF 02 302217Z
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LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
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INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
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AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 9993

USEEC

N. BERNARDO FERNANDEZ, CHRISTIAN RURAL ACTIVIST, FROM FERNANDO DE LA MORA.

O. SEVERO DELGADO, OLD-TIME JOC AND CHRISTIAN RURAL MOVEMENT ACTIVIST. FROM PEDRO JUAN CABALLERO, DEPARTMENT OF AMAMBAY.

P. ENRIQUE CARDENAS, CHRISTIAN RURAL ACTIVIST. FROM CAAPUCU.

Q. ADRIANO OTAZO, CHRISTIAN RURAL ACTIVIST. FROM CAAGUAZU.

R. FELICIANO VERDUN, CHRISTIAN RURAL ACTIVIST. FROM ACARAY.

S. QUIRINO HERMOSA, MEMBER OF CEPES AND CNTU COORDINATION TEAM.

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 09993 02 OF 02 302217Z

T. PEDRO FERREIRA, CHRISTIAN RURAL ACTIVIST. FROM CAAGUAZU.

3. FIVE OF THE ABOVE LISTED INDIVIDUALS REPORTEDLY WERE PLACED IN LIBERTY, AS FOLLOWS: EDELIRA CARRERAS (DECEMBER 19); QUIRINO HERMOSA (DECEMBER 22); FULGENCIO BAREIRO ROSAS (DECEMBER 22); EMIGDIO COLMAN NUNEZ (DECEMBER 22); AND

FULGENCIO GUSTAVO BAREIRO ESPINOLA (DECEMBER 22). HOWEVER, ON DECEMBER 25 AND 26 HERMOSA, ROSAS AND NUNEZ WERE AGAIN ARRESTED.

4. THE INCASUR DELEGATION ALSO REPORTED THAT BETWEEN DECEMBER 19 AND 22, MONSIGNOR FELIPE SANTIAGO BENITEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE PARAGUAYAN PAPAL CONFERENCE (CEP), SPOKE TWICE WITH SABINO AUGUSTO MONTANARO, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR; ONCE WITH PASTOR CORONEL, CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS; AND ONCE WITH DR. MIGUEL ANGEL RESTARA, SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. DURING THESE CONVERSATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ALLEGEDLY PROMISED THAT ALL THE DETAINEES WOULD BE FREED BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

5. GIVEN THE REPORTS THAT SOME OF THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN BEATEN, THE INCASUR DELEGATION IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE HEALTH OF EMILIO VALENTE, WHO SUFFERS FROM LOW BLOOD PRESSURE PROBLEMS. HIS WIFE HAS DEPARTED FOR ASUNCION IN AN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE PARAGUAYAN AUTHORITIES TO SET HER HUSBAND FREE.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT RICARDO LEIRA, HEAD OF THE DEOMOCRATICALLY-ORIENTED PARAGUAYAN TRADE UNION EXILE GROUP IN BUENOS AIRES HAD CABLED THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) ASKING THAT ORGANIZATION TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 09993 02 OF 02 302217Z

7. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ASUNCION MAY HAVE CONCERNING THESE DETENTIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR PRISONERS' RELEASE.
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Message Attributes

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